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- (a) setting a first closing time for a first lot and a second closing time for a second lot;
 - (b) extending said first closing time;
 - (c) determining whether to extend said second closing time based on said extended first closing time;

- (d) extending said second closing time in accordance with said determination;
- (e) setting a third closing time for a third lot;
- (f) determining whether to extend said third closing time based on said extended second closing time; and

- (g) extending said third closing time in accordance with said step (f).
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REMARKS

The final Office Action dated September 12, 2000 (Paper No. 14) has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments made in response thereto. Reconsideration of the grounds of objection and rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks herein.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 105, 106 and 116-118 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,835,896), in view of Sairamesh et al. ("Economic Framework for pricing and Charging Digital Libraries", D-Lib Magazine, February, 1996).

Claims 107-115 and 119-128 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim base.

Claims 129-152 are allowed.

The Amendment to the Claims

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection. However, to further prosecution of this application, Applicants have deleted claims 105, 106 and 116-118. The Examiner stated that claims 107-115 and 119-128 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 107, 112, 119, 124 and 128 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 108-111, 113-115, 120-123 and 125-127 depend from amended claims 107, 112, 119 and 124. Claim 109 and 121 have been amended to properly depend from amended claims 107 and 119. Accordingly, claims 107-115, 119-128 and 129-152 are presently under consideration.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request timely allowance of claims 107-115, 119-128 and 129-152.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 2, 2000

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